

Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Working Session, October 19, 2011

Members Present: Chairman, Dr. Stephen Tower; Secretary, Jeanne Chancellor; John Cox, board member; Dr. Jen Clay, board member; Don Siemer, board member; Chelton Beamon, Shelter Operations Manager, Janet Hooks, Director of Public Services and Neighborhoods, Dr. LaSona Hall, Deputy Director Public Services and Neighborhoods; Jill Madajczyk, City Attorney' Office.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Stephen Tower.

The minutes from the September meeting were approved. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Dr. Clay and seconded by John Cox.

Jill Madajczyk reported that the ordinance being worked on Councilman Flynn was working on adding cock fighting to the ordinance making dog fighting a nuisance. Making fighting a nuisance gives the city recourse to owners of the property if it is rental property.

Jill also reported the language of the dangerous/vicious ordinance is being reviewed.

There is work in process to change all boarding to \$15.00 a day instead of the current charge of \$7.00 a day. The boarding fees also need to cover fowl such a chickens etc. The actual cost of boarding comes out to be \$67.67 a day when all costs are included.

The ordinance to allow the adoption rather than auction of livestock is also being processed. The adoption of livestock will allow adoption/rescue as soon as the animals are city property which will enable them to leave the shelter in a much more timely fashion. Rescue is often willing to take in the animals as soon as available.

The RFP for bids to manage the shelter will be available sometime around January 1, 2011.

It is not known exactly when the Rotary Club report will be available.

The new facility was discussed:

The shelter will move from 10,000 square feet to 35,000 square feet.

There are 74 cat condos. 416 kennels for dogs. There will be 56 portable kennels available.

There are get acquainted rooms available in different areas of the shelter.

There is a special grooming room equipped with a special bathing tub.

The cages are guillotine with doors that allow the dogs to move from side to side during cleaning so the dog is not in the kennel while it is being cleaned. The use of the kennels in this manner will be possible as long as the population of dogs allows for one dog per double kennel.

The dog kennels also have a self-watering system.

There are outside exercise areas for the dogs. A concrete pad the entire length of the building on the back is available for exercising dogs. A large grassy area on the cove side of the shelter, and a smaller iron fenced area on the front of the shelter. The old shelter had no area for outside exercise.

There are 2 rooms for cats to socialize and get exercise and stimulation.

The shelter contains a state of the art vet clinic that includes a digital x-ray machine.

There are 48 internal cameras tied to the real time crime center which is always monitored. These cameras will also be monitored within the shelter.

The hvac systems are multi-filtered.

There are isolation areas to treat dogs that are contagious to others.

During the visit by the HSUS some of their recommendations were:

The cat cages do not need to be sterilized as often as the dogs. As long as the cat stays in the same cage the cats do better without their environment disturbed except for normal cleaning: food, water and litter.

They also recommend no webcams.

They recommend aggressive adoption/marketing campaigns.

Don Siemer brought up the topic of holding strays for the legal holding time then euthanizing them as soon as they became city property, but said he realized there was not support for this.

Chelton Beamon reported that for September there had been 247 adoptions, 850 euthanized, and 96 return to owners.

For October the numbers so far:

140 adoptions

404 euthanized

36 returned to owner

12 transfers

The adoptions from Yappy Hours: 35, 37, 17 and 26.

The cost of vans versus animal control trucks was discussed. HSUS Sheltering Magazine uses the van as the industry standard. Cost of vans/trucks will be available at the next meeting.

Current job postings for positions at the shelter include:

Administrator: posted in trade publications

2 Animal Control Officers

1 Technician posting

2 new animal control officers have been hired

2 new technicians have been hired.

The call backlog is at about 1200 now. With calls for strays, the animals are often not there by the time an office responds unless the caller has the animal contained.

24,000 calls came into the shelter last year to be dispatched to officers. Police calls are priority calls which involve aggressive animals, bite cases and animal cruelty. There are 5 clerks dispatching calls. The calls are dispatched by priority. The bulk of the backlogged calls are for strays.

John Cox made a motion that we support removing old stray calls that are backlogged more than 30 days. The motion was seconded by Jen Clay. The motion passed.

The subject of Dead Animal Pick-up scanning for chips and reporting dogs picked up with collars and tags was discussed. Report at next meeting at what the current policy is.

At the November meeting Kate Aguinaga will attend and present some marketing and branding resource ideas. She had offered at the first board meeting open to the public.

Don Siemer brought up Pet Placement Partners and making sure there were no hoarding situations with the rescue groups who take animals from MAS. What safeguards are in place? Does the shelter check up on where the dogs rescue groups take end up? Could Code Enforcement help with this? Would a numbers limit on pets per home help control hoarding situations?

Janet Hooks reported that 17 dogs had been euthanized due to the virus currently making it around the shelter. This was done to protect the rest of the population of dogs.

A move to adjourn was made by John Cox and seconded by Don Siemer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary

